Lingering on the way
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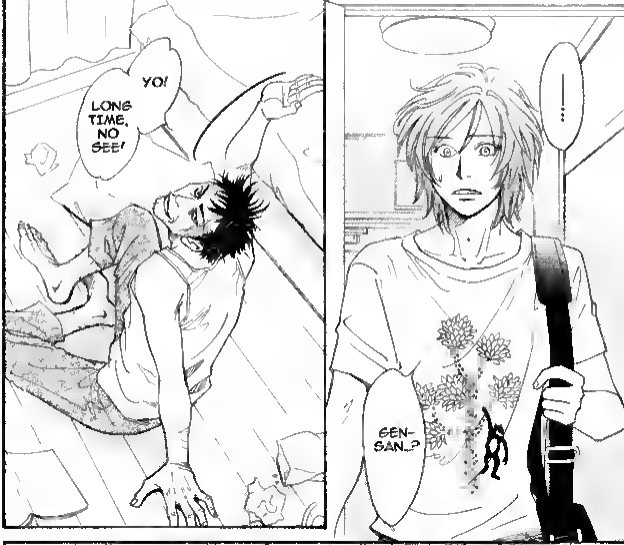
CLONK
SAIKA KUNIEDA
COMING SOON!!
A SHOCKING MASTERPIECE THAT ATTRACTED PUBLIC ATTENTION WHEN IT APPEARED IN PUBLICATION. A DEAD PERSON RECOUNTS THE DETAILS OF HIS LIFE IN RPG'S "THE QUESTION" PACKED WITH MASTERPIECES ON SALE OCTOBER 30TH 2007.
I DIDN'T STOP BY HERE ON A WHIM
I MEAN, I WASN'T PARTICULARLY HAPPY TO COME HERE, BUT...
IF YOU CAN SMILE A LITTLE...
AND CHERISH YOUR PRECIOUS MEMORIES
PLEASE REMEMBER THIS "OLD GUY."
YOU'RE VERY FORTUNATE.
WELL, A LITTLE STOP ALONG THE WAY ISN'T TOO BAD
OPEN
LINGERING ON THE WAY
A SPECIAL 18 PAGE SHORT STORY!


YO!
LONG TIME, NO SEE!
...!
EEN-SAN..?

I MEAN, CAN'T YOU DO SOME-THING ABOUT THIS HEAT?
GEEZ! IT'S SO UNCOM-FORTABLE IN HERE!
FLAP FLAP
YOU'RE JUST AS TIDY AS EVER, YUU.

grab
AARGH!
thump
GEN-SAN...!
I THOUGHT I'D NEVER SEE YOU AGAIN.!
HE'S STILL THE SAME EARNEST GUY
HIS SINCERITY WEARS ME OUT, BUT...

IT'S HIS LACK OF AWARENESS THAT I FIND SO TROUBLE-SOME, BUT...
DON'T HANG ALL OVER ME!
mu
IT'S HOT!
...IT'S BECAUSE I KNOW HE'S INSENSI-TIVE, TOO
beep
SORRY SORRY
OH
LEAVE ME ALONE!
HEY, IT'S HOT!
I'M PES-TING!
vrrrr
kick kick
scratch scratch
"LIKE BE-FORE?"
"LIKE BE-FORE," BUT...
THE HEAT STILL BOTHERS YOU, GEN-SAN, JUST LIKE BEFORE
chuckle
sigh
cool

HOW MUCH ARE WE "LIKE BEFORE" AND HOW MUCH HAVE WE CHANGED...?
BACK THEN, YOU WERE CRAZY ABOUT ME
Gen-san! Where are you, Gen-san?!
YOU USED TO FOLLOW ME AROUND EVEN IN SITUATIONS LIKE THESE
Gen-san Don't! Your injury can't be healed yet
YOU WERE ANNOYINGLY SINCERE
Please
Please come down!

WELL, I WAS STUPIDLY MOVED BY YOUR KINDNESS
NN...
HEH, HEH...
IT'S BEEN A WHILE...
IT STILL FEELS GOOD... GEN-SAN

chuckle chuckle
DON'T
IT HURTS...
SHUT UP.
AAH..
lick
YOU SAY IT HURTS, BUT IT MAKES YOU HAPPY.
WELL -
IT CAN'T BE HELPED.
NN ...
grab
OH

A MES-SAGE ...
GEEZ
HE DION'T HAVE THAT THING BACK THEN
WHAT S SO INTER-ESTING ABOUT IT?
I'M RIGHT HERE ANO YOU'RE IGNORING ME
WHAT THE HELL IS SO FASCI-NATING?
EVEN THIS FUTON SHELLS LIKE SOMEONE BESIOES YOU
YOU'RE FOR-GETTING ASOUT ME ANO GETTING COZY WITH SOMEONE ELSE
ARGH! IDIOT!
IT'S LIKE I'M JEALOUS, RIGHT? YOU OIO THINGS WITH ME, BUT...
GEN-SAN?

huddled in a corner
...GEN-SAN?
...HM?
ARE YOU MAD?
GEN-SAN...
DON'T TOUCH ME!
UH.
OH, SHIT!
damn it
GEN-SAN... PLEASE DON'T BE MAD...
I'VE WANTED TO SEE YOU FOR SUCH A LONG TIME.
I CAN'T SAY NO WHEN HE CRIES.
GEEZ, THIS IS BAD...

HE'S SENTI-MENTAL AND SELFISH
LET'S NOT FIGHT.
I'M LONELY
THIS HASN'T CHAN-GED AT ALL
BUT...
THIS WILL BE... ...OUR FARE-WELL.
THEN, BEFORE I KNEW IT, YOU BECAME AN ADULT
GEN-SAN
PLEA-SE...
sigh
BACK THEN, YOU USED TO CRY, "DON'T GO!"
I'VE AL-READY ACCEP-TED IT
THIS IS THE END

IT CAN'T BE HELPED
ROLL OVER
GEEZ
I LOVE YOU
I WAS THE BEST, BUT
I REALLY LOVE YOU, GEN-SAN...
OH, YEAH, YEAH
I KNOW.
GEN-SAN...
grab
OH
I WISH IT COULD BE LIKE THOSE DAYS
scratch scratch
I WON'T FORGET YOU EVER...

YOU USED TO SPEND ALL YOUR TIME WITH ME
IT'S NOT FAIR_
ding dong...

NN..
ding dong
ding dong
heh
HEL-LO..?
HEY, YUU?
open
DAMN..
IS HE COMING IN?
click
step
WHAT'S GOING ON? ARE YOU CRYING AGAIN?
ENOUGH ALREADY..!

APPPSH!
DASH
GEN-SAN!
THIS UP-SETS ME...
IT'S HIS SMELL THAT'S INGRAINED IN THE FUTON
THIS GUY

I NEVER INTENDED TO STAY HERE FOREVER
step
THIS UP-SETS ME, BUT...
IT CAN'T BE HELPED
sigh
GEN-SAN!
WHAT THE HELL?
YOU KEPT HIM AT YOUR PARENTS' HOUSE...
GEN-SAN?
thump
GOOD-BYE

sob
sob
THE CAT THAT JUST JUMPED OUT THE WINDOW DIED THREE DAYS AGO. "GEN-SAN?"
YEAH ...
HUH?
MOST PEOPLE WOULD BE SKEPTICAL...
WHAT?! YOU DON'T BELIEVE IT WAS GEN-SAN?!
Cut it out!
whack whack
WELL, IT'S OKAY IF YOU WANT TO BELIEVE THAT, BUT...
And that cat was my dad.
I THINK HE CAME TO SAY HIS LAST GOOD-BYE.
He didn't even look dead.

toss
OH..
WELL...
I'M HAPPY
IF IT MAKES YOU FEEL BETTER..
!
I WANTED YOU TO MEET HIM, KEN-CHAN.
WHEN GEN-SAN WAS IN HIS PRIME..
..YOU TWO KINDA RESEMBLE EACH OTHER
heh heh
I THINK YOU WOULD HAVE BEEN FRIENDS

I FEEL THE SAME WAY
YOU'RE JOKING, RIGHT?!!
He's back here again!
BUT, WELL
magically appeared
GEEZ
WILL THAT BOY BE HAPPY?
I mean, I just don't like cats!
Why are you angry?
What is it?
I'm not!
I'VE HAD ENOUGH LINGERING ON MY WAY
I'LL LET THAT NEW GUY LOOK AFTER HIM
THIS OLD GUY... I'LL TREASURE THE MEMORIES OF ALL THE TIME WE SPENT TOGETHER..
IT'S TIME TO GO

LINGERING ON THE WAY THE END